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## Obama has acid reflux

AP,

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United States President Barack Obama. (FP)

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BETHESDA, Md. (AP) – Acid reflux is responsible for the sore throat President Barack Obama has complained about for the past couple of weeks, the White House said today, shortly after the president returned from undergoing diagnostic tests at a nearby military hospital.

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Obama's motorcade made the approximately half-hour crawl in rainy weather to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Centre in Bethesda, Maryland, where a CT scan was performed and was normal.

Obama, 53, was at the facility for about a half hour before returning to the White House.

The CT scan followed a morning fibre optic exam performed on Obama at the White House by an ear, nose and throat specialist from Fort Belvoir Medical Centre in Northern Virginia and supervised Dr Ronny L. Jackson, Obama's physician and director of the White House Medical Unit.

Jackson said in a statement that the fibre optic exam revealed "soft tissue swelling" in the back of Obama's throat. Jackson said he and the specialist, who was not identified, determined that "further evaluation with a routine CT scan was prudent".

The CT scan was normal, Jackson said.

"The president's symptoms are consistent with soft tissue inflammation related to acid reflux and will be treated accordingly," he said, without elaborating on exactly how Obama's condition would be treated.

Acid reflux is caused when the contents of the stomach flow back up the oesophagus, causing heartburn and other symptoms. Treatments include avoiding certain foods and using over-the-counter or prescription medications, including antacids.

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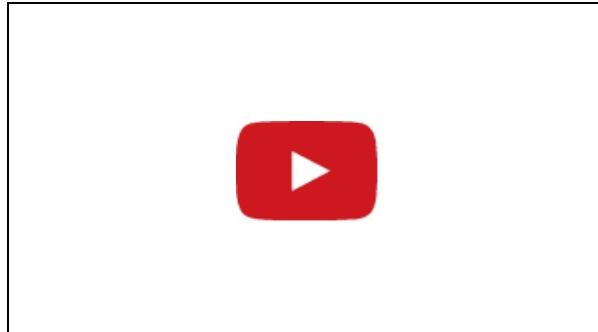
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**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE Dr David Estwick**  
Minister gives PM ultimatum

By ANNA PRICE  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE Dr David Estwick has written Prime Minister David Branson Stuart and given him an ultimatum.  
He wrote action taken by Stuart or him, he said, was unacceptable and was in a Cabinet where his instructions are not carried out with "fidelity".  
Estwick also sent Stuart a seven-page letter on November 17 which related his anger on the lack of progress made on the Cane Industry Restructuring Project (CIRP).  
Estwick said: "I believe in Cabinet Government... I have written to you twice regarding matters of this nature and I am still awaiting your response and opportunity to discuss the authority of the Cabinet. I have no intention to leave this issue to serve in a Cabinet where its members do not carry out their duty with fidelity. I can assure you that this is the last time I will raise this matter with you."  
In the letter which was copied to other members of the Cabinet, one of whom was quoted by the SUNDAY SUN - Estwick lamented that he had not been given prior notice that Stuart would not support the CIRP at the Cabinet meeting four days earlier.  
As a result, Estwick said he was unable to meet with the Prime Minister to refute several fundamental statements told to the Cabinet.  
The P.M. did not respond to Estwick's copy of the letter, which contained a copy of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between original Sockers.

He stressed that there were no such MOUs and that the Project was presenting the financing term sheet from National Standardised Finance, which was to be presented to the Cane industry, Estwick expressed regret that there had been no action taken on the matter by the Cabinet.  
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Starting the National Standardised Finance offer was one of foreign direct investment as the company was willing to invest its money in the Barbados cane industry, Estwick expressed regret that there had been no action taken on the matter by the Cabinet.

To clear up the "misunderstanding" as well as to protect the honour of his ministry, the Barbados Agricultural Development Company and Barbados Cane Industry Corporation, Estwick specifically outlined the major aspects relating to the proposed project and the documentary evidence to support his position.  
He said: "What is before the Ministry of Finance is a proposal for a long-term equity investment" which is needed at this time.

● annaprice@nationnews.com

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE Dr David Estwick**

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